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APM-CIA-HOSTAGES:270

CIA REPORTEDLY THOUGHT SOME HOSTAGES WOULD HAVE DIED IN RESCUE
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BELIEVED THAT
60 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED OR
WOUNDED IF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESCUE PLAN WAS CARRIED OUT AS PLANNED;
KCBS RADIO REPORTED.

THE ALL-NEWS STATION, QUOTING A SOURCE IT SAID HAS BEEN "ACCURATE
IN EVERY DETAIL SO FAR," SAID MONDAY THERE WAS A CIA REPORT SAYING
"60 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN CAPTIVES WERE LIKELY TO BE KILLED OR
WOUNDED EVEN IF THE ASSAULT HAD GONE OFF AS PLANNED."

A CIA SPOKESMAN IN WASHINGTON WHO WAS NOT IDENTIFIED DECLINED
COMMENT ON THE STORY.

THE STATION QUOTED THE SOURCE AS SAYING THE PLAN WAS APPROVED EVEN
THOUGH THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF REPORTEDLY WERE GIVEN THE CIA
DOCUMENT.

THE CIA BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FREE ALL THE
HOSTAGES AT THE SAME TIME BECAUSE THEY WERE IN SMALL GROUPS IN
DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE EMBASSY COMPOUND; KCBS SAID IT WAS TOLD BY THE
SOURCE. THE DOCUMENT SAID THAT IF SOME OF THE HOSTAGES HAD BEEN FREED
OTHERS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED; THE SOURCE SAID.

U.S. MILITARY MEN CARRIED MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN IRANIAN CURRENCY
TO "PAY LOCAL PARTISANS," THE STATION'S SOURCE CLAIMED.

PENTAGON OFFICIALS REFUSED COMMENT ON THE REPORT. THE CIA HAS NOT
BEEN OFFICIALLY LINKED WITH THE ABORTED RESCUE PLAN.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL DENIED IN WASHINGTON THAT
CARTER DID NOT FOLLOW ADVICE FROM HIS MILITARY PLANNERS.

"AT NO TIME DID THE PRESIDENT DENY OR FAIL TO CONCUR IN ANY
SUGGESTION FROM THE MILITARY PLANNERS FOR THE REQUISITE AMOUNT OF
FORCE OR CAPABILITY WITH REGARD TO FIREPOWER OR TRANSPORT," POWELL
SAID.

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